

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 MCT-01 HA-05 SSM-03
ACDA-12 DRC-01 /095 W
-----029034 171816Z /50/17

R 131351Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0431
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1500

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 1500 VICE 15004

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: XF, IS, PLO
SUBJ: KUWAITI REACTIONS TO MARCH 11 TERRORISM IN ISRAEL

1. THE MARCH 11 TERRORIST INCIDENT ON THE HAIFA-TEL AVIV
HIGHWAY APPARENTLY WAS DISCUSSED AT THE WEEKLY KUWAITI
CABINET MEETING MARCH 12, AFTER WHICH MIN/CABINET
AFFAIRS HUSSEIN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE INCIDENT WAS
"THE NATURAL AND REAL WORK OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION.
THE PALESTINIANS THEREBY EXERCISE THEIR NATURAL
RIGHT. KUWAIT ALWAYS STANDS WITH THE PALESTINIAN
REVOLUTION IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND ITS EFFORTS TO
EXERT ITSELF."

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THREE KUWAITI DAILIES MARCH 13
LAUDED THE TERRORISTS. AL RAI AL AM ASSERTED THAT THE
INCIDENT CAUSED A "GENERAL WAVE OF HAPPINESS" AND
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PRIDE IN KUWAIT, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MORE
"SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS" WOULD FOLLOW. AL-QABAS ALLEGED
THAT THE INCIDENT HELPED THE "PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE"
GAIN RESPECT, "FOR THE WORLD RESPECTS ONLY THE STRONG."
AL-WATAN ASSERTED THAT THE TERRORIST ACTION HAD
UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH IGNORES
THE PALESTINIANS WILL NEVER COME INTO BEING, THAT THE U.S.

AND ISRAEL HAD BEEN TAUGHT THIS LESSON, AND THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE HAD BEEN "OVERTHROWN."

3. COMMENT: DURING A MEETING MARCH 12 WITH FONMIN UNDERSEC RASHID AL-RASHID ARRANGED FOR VISITING NEA/RA OFFICE DIRECTOR PALMER, FORMER SEEMED TO FEEL NO REGRET OVER LIVES LOST IN INCIDENT IN CONTRAST TO FEELINGS EXPRESSED ON OTHER OCCASIONS OVER TERRORIST INCIDENTS. RATHER, TEL AVIV INCIDENT WAS SEEN AS RECURRING PATTERN FOR THE FUTURE BECAUSE OF INTRANSIGENCE OF EXPANSIONIST ISRAELIS WITH RESPECT TO LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED KUWAITI PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT PERSONS KILLED WERE ISRAELI SOLDIERS RATHER THAN INNOCENT CIVILIANS. NEVERTHELESS, ATTITUDE OF KUWAITI OFFICIALS TOWARD TERRORISM BY PALESTINIANS HAPPENS TO BE DIFFERENT WHEN ATTACK TAKES PLACE IN ISRAEL ITSELF.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT01500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0789
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780376/aaaacmlw.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a95074c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3354504
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI REACTIONS TO MARCH 11 TERRORISM IN ISRAEL
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, XF, IS, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a95074c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014